



ARLINGTON

Middlesex County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Arlington, founded over 350 years ago, remains proud of its history, even as it has grown into a thoroughly modern community. The birthplace of Uncle Sam, the location of the first public children's library, and the site of most of the fighting when the British marched through it returning from the Old North Bridge at the start of the Revolutionary War, Arlington has preserved many of its historical buildings and even recreated its town common. Once a thriving agriculture and mill town, Arlington's excellent access to metropolitan Boston has made it a very desirable place to live. Its diverse population has demanded good schools and recreation facilities which has made it attractive to families. Commercial development centers along Massachusetts Avenue which traverses the Mill Brook valley. Residences are located on the flat former agricultural land in East Arlington or on the slopes on either side of the east-west "Mass Ave" corridor. Townspeople have recently instituted a visioning process to articulate the community's goals as it continues to adapt to ever changing times. Population diversity, education, business, care for the environment, encouragement of culture, and citizen involvement have been reaffirmed.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Winchester on the north, Medford and Somerville on the east, Cambridge and Belmont on the south, and Lexington on the west. Arlington is 6 miles west of Boston, 19 miles south of Lowell, 39 miles east of Fitchburg, and 200 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 5.51 sq. miles

Land Area: 5.18 sq. miles

Population: 44,630

Density: 8,616 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Boston WSO Station)

Normal temperature in January.....28.6°F

Normal temperature in July.....73.5°F

Normal annual precipitation.....41.5"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Lexington

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (781) 646-1000

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Manager

Representative Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1867

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

Number	%
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Total Registered 26,953

Democrats 14,827 55.0 % Republicans 3,092 11.5 % Other parties 24 0.1 % Unenrolled Voters 9,010 33.4 %

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Arlington town, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	42,389	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	42,389	100.0
Male.....	19,679	46.4	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	787	1.9
Female.....	22,710	53.6	Mexican.....	121	0.3
Under 5 years.....	2,562	6.0	Puerto Rican.....	125	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	2,131	5.0	Cuban.....	49	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	2,018	4.8	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	492	1.2
15 to 19 years.....	1,573	3.7	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	41,602	98.1
20 to 24 years.....	1,674	3.9	White alone.....	38,058	89.8
25 to 34 years.....	7,426	17.5	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	7,841	18.5	Total population.....	42,389	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	6,190	14.6	In households.....	42,216	99.6
55 to 59 years.....	2,091	4.9	Householder.....	19,011	44.8
60 to 64 years.....	1,753	4.1	Spouse.....	8,636	20.4
65 to 74 years.....	3,492	8.2	Child.....	10,514	24.8
75 to 84 years.....	2,648	6.2	Own child under 18 years.....	7,464	17.6
85 years and over.....	990	2.3	Other relatives.....	1,434	3.4
Median age (years).....	39.5	(X)	Under 18 years.....	266	0.6
18 years and over.....	34,606	81.6	Nonrelatives.....	2,621	6.2
Male.....	15,707	37.1	Unmarried partner.....	912	2.2
Female.....	18,898	44.6	In group quarters.....	173	0.4
21 years and over.....	33,898	80.0	Institutionalized population.....	89	0.2
62 years and over.....	8,214	19.4	Noninstitutionalized population.....	84	0.2
65 years and over.....	7,130	16.8	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	2,671	6.3	Total households.....	19,011	100.0
Female.....	4,459	10.5	Family households (families).....	10,779	56.7
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	4,395	23.1
One race.....	41,729	98.4	Married-couple family.....	8,636	45.4
White.....	38,561	91.0	With own children under 18 years.....	3,635	19.1
Black or African American.....	719	1.7	Female householder, no husband present.....	1,669	8.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	57	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	643	3.4
Asian.....	2,107	5.0	Nonfamily households.....	8,232	43.3
Asian Indian.....	470	1.1	Householder living alone.....	6,501	34.2
Chinese.....	860	2.0	Householder 65 years and over.....	2,385	12.5
Filipino.....	94	0.2	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	4,592	24.2
Japanese.....	246	0.6	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	5,313	27.9
Korean.....	223	0.5	Average household size.....	2.22	(X)
Vietnamese.....	52	0.1	Average family size.....	2.91	(X)
Other Asian ¹	162	0.4	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	6	-	Total housing units.....	19,411	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	1	-	Occupied housing units.....	19,011	97.9
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	2	-	Vacant housing units.....	400	2.1
Samoa.....	2	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	1	-	occasional use.....	53	0.3
Some other race.....	279	0.7	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	660	1.6	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	1.5	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	19,011	100.0
White.....	39,115	92.3	Owner-occupied housing units.....	11,186	58.8
Black or African American.....	935	2.2	Renter-occupied housing units.....	7,825	41.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	130	0.3	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.47	(X)
Asian.....	2,374	5.6	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.87	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	25	0.1			
Some other race.....	526	1.2			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	711
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP):	20
Federal (Section 8):	422



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Arlington is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 2 and 2A, U.S. Route 3, and State Route 60.

Rail

Commuter rail service to Boston's North Station is available in the adjacent towns of Belmont and Medford. Travel time from Belmont Center Station: 15 min., no MBTA parking; from West Medford Station: 11-12 minutes; 30 MBTA parking spaces available. Freight rail service is available from the Springfield Terminal Railway. Contact number: (508) 663-1073

Bus

Arlington is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), which provides fixed route service to the Alewife, Harvard, and Lechmere subway stations. The MBTA also provides THE RIDE, a paratransit

service for the elderly and disabled.

Other

Logan International Airport and the port facilities of Boston are easily accessible. Hanscom Field, Bedford, a (CR) Reliever Airport with Commercial Service, has 2 paved runways 7,001' and 5,106' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision. MBTA bus service from Alewife Station to Hanscom Field via Arlington.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

(American Association of Museums)

The Arlington Historical Society

7 Jason Street

(781) 648-4300

The Old Schwamb Mill

17 Mill Lane

(781) 643-0554

MUSEUMS

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

Symmes Hospital, Inc.

Long Term Care

Park Ave Nurs, Conv. & Retirement Home

Wellington Manor Nursing Home

Hospices

Hospice Care, Inc.

Rest Homes

Arlington Rest Home, Inc.

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.